

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Serial No.: 09/291,533

Filing Date: April 14, 1999

Attorney Docket No. 100.113US01

Title: INTERFACE FOR AN ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM

interfacing the ERP systems with data from existing systems, so-called 'legacy data.'" See Page 1, Line 21-22. The present application discloses and claims a solution to the problem addressed. In particular, the present application discloses and claims methods of providing data from a data file to an ERP system. See the last limitation of independent claims 1, 13 and 20, the drawings and the specification of the present application. In addition, the present application discloses and claims parameter files that maps data to the ERP system. See Claims 1, 13 and 20, the drawings and specification of the present application.

The Examiner has maintained that the Geller et al. reference teaches what is disclosed and claimed in the present application. However, the Geller et al. reference discloses and teaches the accessing of data stored in an enterprise resource planning (ERP) data base **not** providing data to the ERP data base as is disclosed and claimed in the present application. As stated in Column 8, Lines 23-26 of the Geller et al. reference "[i]n accordance with the invention, however, data stored in the ERP data base 21 can be accessed via SQL queries and incorporated as tables stored locally on the salesperson's laptop computer." Moreover, the Geller et al reference at Column 8, Lines 18-23 explicitly states "[t]he ERP database 21 is maintained by a separate enterprise resource planning (ERP) application program 22, **which forms no part of the present invention.** The enterprise's ERP applications are responsible for keeping the ERP database 21 updated with current information such as product configuration data." (*emphasis added*) Accordingly, the Geller et al. reference does not teach, disclose or suggest alone or in combination what is disclosed and claimed in Claims 1, 13 and 20 of the present application. In fact, as shown, the Geller et al reference explicitly states that it does not disclose a method of providing data to the ERP database.

In light of the above, each parameter disclosed in the Geller et al reference "correspond to a data object variable or field. It is used to contain, save, calculate,

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compare and display information.” See Column 10, line 64 through Column 11, Line 2 of the Geller et al reference. The parameters of the Geller et al reference relate to product searches in the ERP not to mapping data into the ERP as is disclosed and claimed in the present application. Referring to the Geller et al. reference at Column 18, Lines 19-36, the Geller et al. reference states in part “[t]he data requirements will consist of the parameters needed to completely specify the full range of product configurations, plus additional parameters to hold and display lookup information such as features and prices. ... As explained previously, a parameter is like a variable or a field. It is used to contain, save, calculate, compare, and display information. ... The structure of the data represented by the parameters should parallel the product being configured. In contrast, the present application discloses and claims parameter files that are used to map data to the ERP system for a particular transaction. See Page 4, line 24 through Page 10 line 15 of the present application. This is not what is disclosed, claimed or suggested in Geller et al. reference.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent Claims 1, 13 and 20 are patentably distinct from the Geller et al reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Moreover, since Dependant claims 2-11, 14, 16-19, 21, and 23-26 depend from and further define their respective independent claims 1, 13 or 20, Applicant further asserts that claims 2-11, 14, 16-19, 21, and 23-26 are patentably distinct and respectfully request the withdrawal of their rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In addition, Applicant reasserts the related arguments presented in the Amendment and Response filed on June 6, 2002.

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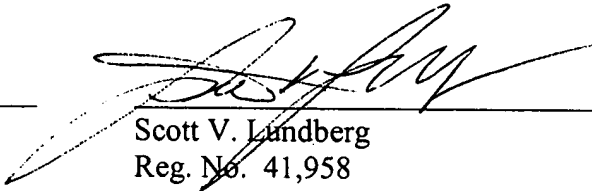
Conclusion

Claims 1-26 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502432

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11-11-02



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